Dhatki language

Dhatki (धाटकी; ولتّي), also known as Dhatti (धत्ती; والّي) or Thari (धारी; رُبّي), is one of the <u>Rajasthani languages</u> of the <u>Indo-Aryan</u> branch of the <u>Indo-European language</u> family. [3] It is most closely related to Marwari.

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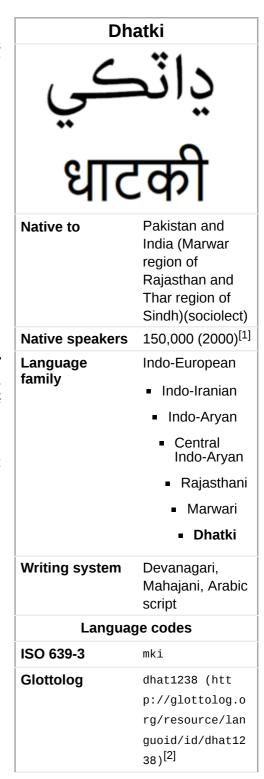
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Speakers

Dhatki/Dhati is spoken in western parts of <u>Jaisalmer</u> and <u>Barmer</u> districts of <u>Rajasthan</u> in India and eastern parts of <u>Sindh</u> province of <u>Pakistan</u> by about 2,000,001 people in all. Some Dhatki-speaking communities migrated to <u>India</u> in 1947 after the independence and continued to do so in small numbers after that date, but the great majority of Dhatki speakers still reside in <u>Pakistan</u>. Dhatki/Dhati is spoken by these communities:

- Thari Maheshwaris
- Rajputs
- Rajpurohit
- Charan
- Sodha
- Khatri
- Malhi
- Suthar
- Bajeer
- Sonara
- Menghwar
- Behil
- Harijan
- Garasiya



The majority speakers of Dhatki language live in <u>Umerkot District</u> and <u>Tharparkar District</u> in <u>Sindh</u>, <u>Pakistan</u>. 80% of the language's speakers are Muslims, 15% are Hindu and the remaining 5% practice traditional desert religions (often folk variations of Vedic Hinduism).

Phonology

Dhatki has <u>implosive</u> consonants, unlike other closely related Rajasthani languages but like the neighbouring (but more distantly related) <u>Sindhi</u> language. It is likely that these consonants developed in the language from contact with more culturally dominant Sindhi speakers. Aside from this, its phonology is much like other Indo-Aryan languages:

| DI L4: | | 4 - |
|--------|--------|------|
| Dnakti | conson | ants |

| | | Labial | Dental/ Alveolar | Retroflex | Palatal | <u>Velar</u> | <u>Uvular</u> | Glottal |
|-----------------------|---------------------|--------|---------------------|--------------------------------|------------------|--------------------|------------------|---------|
| Nasal | | m | n | (ŋ) ¹ | (ɲ) ¹ | (ŋ) ¹ | | |
| Plosive/ Affricate | voiceless | р | ţ | t | t∫ | k | (q) ¹ | |
| | voiceless aspirated | рh | ţ ^h | t ^h | t∫ʰ | k ^h | | |
| | voiced | b | ģ | d | dʒ | g | | |
| | voiced aspirated | þħ | ďμ | ₫ ^ħ | d3 ^h | g ^ħ | | |
| Implosive | voiced | б | ď | | f | g | | |
| Fricative | voiceless | f | S | (ş) ¹ | ſ | (x) ¹ | | |
| | voiced | | z | | | (ɣ) ^{1,2} | | ĥ |
| Flap | plain | | ٢ | (٣) ¹ | | | | |
| | voiced aspirated | | | (τ ^h) ¹ | | | | |
| Approximant | | υ | ı | l | j | | | |

Notes

- 1. Marginal and non-universal phonemes are in parentheses. $/\gamma$ is lateral [\bot] for some speakers (Masica 1991:98).
- 2. /ɣ/ is post-velar.^[4]

Samples

A few of the typical sentences in Dhatki are:

- [tu ki karin to?] "What are you doing?",
- [tahayo naalo ki aheyy?] "What is your name?",

- [mana roti kharie aheyy] "I have to eat" (Literally translates to "I have to eat roti).
- [tu kith jaee to?] "where are you going?
- [tu kin ahay?] "How are you?".

Writing System

The language uses two major writing systems. In India, the <u>Devanagari</u> script (which is also used for <u>Marwari</u>, <u>Hindi</u> and many other north Indian languages) is employed; whereas is in Pakistan, the <u>Sindhi</u> <u>script</u> is used. Some mercantile families, particularly on the Indian side of the border use their own scripts, usually variations of the Mahajani script.

References

- 1. Dhatki (https://www.ethnologue.com/18/language/mki/) at *Ethnologue* (18th ed., 2015)
- Hammarström, Harald; Forkel, Robert; Haspelmath, Martin, eds. (2017). "Dhatki" (http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/dhat1238). Glottolog 3.0. Jena, Germany: Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History.
- 3. http://www.ethnologue.com/show language.asp?code=mki
- 4. Kachru (2006:20)

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